

Battalion Editorials

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1949

Dilly-Dallying With the Daily . . .

Annually the conduct of the A&M student body takes an acid test in the northern extremities of the state, either Fort Worth or Dallas. Once again we have returned from Cowtown with no serious blemishes on our record.

There were minor infractions of the code of the hills, but these were to be expected, and the localities cannot be denied their praises.

Our conduct was not above reproach, but it was above condemnation. With our first conference game and our first corps trip of the year, we have made a far-reaching step towards reaching the goal which we attained last year. This was, of course, our esteemed Sportsmanship Award.

Regardless of the number of points we bring home in gridiron statistics, we are still bringing home a number of these love-thy-neighbor touchdowns. Perhaps it would be timely now to mention an editorial in an issue of the Daily Texan, the university's favorite periodical, which we peruse each day in all sincerity.

Thoughts on Our Letters Column . . .

Reflections of a Navy veteran after seeing the movie "Purple Heart" the second time are contained on this page in our "Letters" column. His reflections are similar to those of most ex-servicemen who have heard the whine of enemy shells and seen the splatter of American blood.

His conclusion that the war of our generation was futile is shared by millions who participated in that war, not only in our country but all over the world.

These voices for peace are but a murmur when compared to the clang of forges beating out new weapons "just in case there is another war." A third world war is, to many people, a certainty—a reality to be faced a few years hence.

Nobody will admit they want war. Everyone hates it. But war has a positive, tangible appeal that peace doesn't possess. We can see the guns rolling off production lines. We can see our sidewalk throngs become more and more mingled with uniforms. We can hear planes overhead—planes we naturally assume to be friendly because we've known no others.

Peace is an intangible state that lulls us to forget objective international relations and drives us to set about at one another's throats over petty domestic issues. We can work for war because we can see the product of our labors; in peace the intangibles get too hazy, and results are not always clear and definite.

Whenever thoughts turn to war, let us reflect with our reader whose letter pleads for peace and recall to our minds the tragedy of war and the obscure confused results it also produces.

After Ten Years, Customs Is Closed . . .

Our ever-faithful Associated Press wire channeled one small item into the office Saturday that caused us to stop and reflect on life for a while. See what you think of it.

"Copenhagen, October 8—(AP)—For ten years now, the customs officer at Moellehuset on the Danish-German border has been on duty every day.

"But the custom house will be closed January first.

"A customs surveyor found that the border at Moellehuset hasn't seen a solitary traveler in those ten years."

Insignificant, you say? Yes, perhaps it is, but then doesn't it make you wonder just a little bit?

What kind of sleepy little place is this Moellehuset? What kind of people live there and what do they do for a living? Maybe, in this fast-moving world the little village on the Danish German border doesn't even rate passing mention for obviously nothing important to the outside world ever happens there.

But we wonder what effect the closing of the customs house at Moellehuset will have on the people of the little hamlet. And what will happen to the customs officer and his family, if he has one? Few people will care outside of Moellehuset. Nobody would even know about it if some far-away reporter, perhaps at a loss for copy, hadn't stumbled upon the item buried in an official report.

So, here in College Station, Texas, U.S.A., thousands of miles away from the Danish-German border, we would like to wish the customs officer of Moellehuset good luck. We hope he finds a new job, but, somehow we're sure he won't like it nearly as well as he probably did his customs job with all its time for thought and reflection.

We want him to know people do care what happens to him, for we as "little" people ourselves, are concerned for his future even though he, too, is just a little man in mighty little job.

The Battalion

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

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YOU'RE TELLING US!



Letters To The Editor

(All letters to the editor which are signed by a student or employee of the college and which do not contain obscene or libelous material will be published. Persons wishing to have their names withheld from publication may request such action and these names will not, without the consent of the writer, be divulged to any persons other than the editors.)

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION

Editor, The Battalion:

Tonight I went to see the movie "Purple Heart" for the second time. The first time I saw it was in 1943. I was just past seventeen then and I thought I looked pretty good in my navy blues. I remember clearly my reactions to the movie that first time. "Well show them!" I thought. "I was so full of what I thought was patriotism that I could have licked a dozen Japanese soldiers single handed. To me there could be only one punishment for the whole race. That there could possibly be any answer but complete annihilation of the whole race was utterly fantastic. Since that day in 1943 I have seen and learned many things, things that make me realize how foolish my thoughts were that day. I took part in the second wave ashore at Palau and for a week I took supplies to the beach and brought wounded back from it.

The second and third days we had to push the bodies out of the way of the boats so they could land. The funerals were very simple, pull along side a body and get its dogtags, loop a line about it and tie it to some weight; for that purpose, after the chaplain had ministered the last rites throw the weight over and go on to the next one.

I went to Leyte to repeat the performance on a larger scale. It was after this that I really began to learn things, instead of ferrying the wounded on one trip I was ferried myself. I spent eighteen months in naval hospitals. Up to this time the wounded were just something that had to be, but when I became one of them something happened to me inside.

It is hard to spend six months next to an 18-year old boy who no longer has either one of his legs, without seeing the whole sordid mess from another angle. You don't listen to a chaplain in the next ward rave half the night under the influence of a demented mind that has seen too much suffering, without beginning to wonder if maybe we are wrong. It isn't easy to watch a nurse take dictation from a 17-year old boy who no longer has a right arm and hasn't learned to write with

Official Notice

Those students who want their ring for Christmas must get their order in to the Registrar's Office before November first. Any student who lacks not more than eight hours of having completed the number of hours required through the Junior year of his curriculum and who has earned an equal number of grade points may purchase the A. and M. ring. All rings must be paid for in full when placing the order. The ring window is open only from 8 a.m. to 12:00 noon, daily except on Saturdays.

H. L. Heaton, Registrar. All students who have not had identification photographs made report to the Photographic & Visual Aids Laboratory, Room 27, Administration Building between the hours of 4:00 p. m. and 5:30 p. m., October 17, 18, 19. The Laboratory will not be open for identification photographs at any other time. BENNIE A. ZINN, Assistant Dean of Students for Student Affairs.

Quon Hall Tuesday & Wednesday

J. ARTHUR RANK presents STEWART GRANGER KATHLEEN RYAN in CAPTAIN BOYCOTT As exciting as a torch-blasting in the night!

FRIDAY NITE 10:30

LET'S ALL GO Pre-Game Fun EVELYN WEST Presents at the

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ONE SHOW ONLY

Make Party Plans Now for



200 Double Lawn Chairs for those who do not have cars

Admission 50c - Tax incl.

ADDED SHORT

"UNDIVIDED BLOND"

Boyle's Column . . .

Expert On House Hunting Tells What To Look For

BY SAUL PETT (For Hal Boyle)

New York (AP)—If you're having difficulty buying a house, pull up a chair and listen. I'm an authority on the subject. I have been buying a house every Sunday for three years. I have driven 18,682 miles (in just the suburbs, of course) and I have spent \$382.43 on gas and oil but I have been able to do all this with the same car, the same wife and the help of only three psychiatrists.

And so I say to you, friend, don't be afraid. You can have your home and sanity, too. House-hunting is not as confusing as you might think.

Just don't buy on impulse. Don't buy on faith. Be practical. Make sure you answer all the vital questions before buying: Who owns the lot next door and are they planning a glue factory? Is the agent over-selling you or under-selling you and does he have a thin, hard mouth or a police record?

What exactly does he mean by saying, "you can own this home if you earn \$4,000 a year." Does he think you'll be able to eat, too? When he says you can heat the place for \$8 a month, does he mean in the winter or summer?

Do you really like a picture window and what do you get a pic-

ture of and what will the neighbors get a picture of and those small little sections which open, will they be enough to carry a breeze?

Does the living room have a wall made all of glass brick and do you think that looks like a public comfort station?

What will happen when it rains? Will you get wet? Are the roof gutters wood, copper, sheet iron? Where will the roof water go? do you need a dry well?

Do you want a house like 100 other houses in a development or do you want to pay more to do distinctive? and why this terrible urge to be distinctive? Are you undemocratic? Are you trying to fulfill a neurotic need to be different and what happened in your childhood to start this complex? And what makes you think you want a house? I don't. I just like to have some place to go Sundays.

Letters

PLEA FOR "98 PER CENTER"

Editor, The Battalion:

Let me add a word to the controversy about the seating arrangements for football games.

The desire to sit during a game does not automatically make that person a "98 percenter." Many veterans, who are ardent Aggie supporters, find it extremely inconvenient and uncomfortable to stand during the whole game. Some are physically unable to stand for long periods of time. Some are about to become parents and their wives would rather not stand the whole time. Some cannot afford baby sitters and must bring their children to the game. These conditions are not infrequent.

Last year the section reserved on the west side adequately provided for these cases. As a regular inhabitant of that section last year, I know that the spirit is as high there as in any corps section. If no changes are made in the present seating arrangement, and I have to stand to see the game, will some self-styled ninety-eight percenter please volunteer to hold my 30-pound boy during the game Saturday?

Harold Loesch, '51

Campus TODAY & WED. FIRST RUN Features Start—1:50 - 4:30 - 7:16 - 10:00

Gregory Ave. PECK-GARDNER The Great Sinner

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Battalion Quarterback Club



HEAR . . .

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sum up Southwest Conference prospects for the remainder of the season.

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11 Prizes Awarded to Winners — IN THE QUARTERBACK CLUB SCORE GUESSING CONTEST You must be present to win

NO ADMISSION

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